

Claims

1. A method of feeding porous sheets of media from a stack of such sheets using a pick-up device that includes a gas conduit that is in fluid communication with a gas supply, the gas conduit opening at a nozzle that is shaped to define a pick-up surface, the pick-up device being displaceable along a feed path, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a gas flow to a first sheet of the stack, via the gas conduit and nozzle so that the gas passes partially through the first sheet and impinges on a second sheet, generating a cushion of air between the first and second sheets to separate the first and second sheets;

reversing the gas flow so that the first sheet is drawn towards the pick-up surface and retained against the pick-up surface; and

displacing the pick-up device along the feed path so that the first sheet is fed from the stack along the feed path.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the step of applying the gas flow to the first sheet includes the step of applying the gas flow at a rate which is sufficient to generate a region of relatively low pressure between the nozzle and the first sheet thereby to facilitate displacement of the first sheet towards the nozzle.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the step of applying a gas flow to the first sheet comprises the step of applying an airflow to the first sheet.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes the steps of conveying the first sheet into engagement with a roller assembly and shutting off the gas flow so that the roller assembly can convey the sheet away from the stack.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, which includes the step of conveying the first sheet to a printing station.